

EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND — EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

**304. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the minister's claim on 31 May during budget estimates that she could not say what services would be cut to meet the efficiency dividend because she had "only known for a very short period that the one per cent would be imposed" and that she was at that time "looking at those options".

- (1) When exactly was the minister told that her department would have to cut its budget by \$30.4 million to achieve a one per cent efficiency dividend?

Is the minister ready?

**Dr E. Constable:** Yes, I am listening to what you are saying. I do not have to look at you while you are speaking.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Is the minister incapable of answering without asking —

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I have given you the call to ask a question, not to make a range of assertions about other people in this place. You have the capacity to ask the question; ask the question, member for Warnbro.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** And —

- (2) Noting that the financial year starts in only two and a half weeks' time, can she now say which services will be cut to meet the dividend?

**Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:**

- (1)–(2) As everybody knows, we go through a long process in forming the budget. During that process and towards the end of that process, I was informed that the Department of Education would be required to look for one per cent efficiencies towards the end of the budget process. This was different from every other portfolio—every other agency. Every other agency has to find a two per cent efficiency dividend, but the one per cent for education recognised that in education the major proportion of our spending is recurrent and we will not be touching front-line services in looking for those efficiencies. I will be working through the process over the next weeks and months with the Director General of Education and senior officers of the department to find those efficiencies.